



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO CALIFORNIA MEN INDICTED FOR COCAINE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two California men were indicted by a federal grand jury today for possession with intent to distribute cocaine following a highway interdiction in Newton County, Mo., in which 32 kilograms of cocaine was seized.

Juan Carlos Soto, 38, of Baldwin, Calif., and **Josue M. Garcia**, 23, of Pomona, Calif., were charged with possessing with the intent to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine on April 13, 2006, in Newton County. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **Soto** and **Garcia** on April 14, 2006.

According to the affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Soto** and **Garcia** were traveling in a 1999 Freightliner (which was pulling a utility trailer) when they were stopped for a commercial motor vehicle compliance inspection at a weight station on Interstate 44 in Newton County. The trailer unit was half-full of cardboard sheets, the affidavit says, but also contained two cardboard boxes which contained 32 kilogram-sized packages of cocaine.

Schlozman cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html